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BOROUGH OF PENRYN

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Penryn.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Penryn during 1949.

The health of the Borough continued satisfactory. The death rate showed a fall from 12.8 in 1948 to 11.6 which was about the same as the rate for the whole country. The birth rate also fell but at 20.4 it was still considerably higher than the rate for the United Kingdom. It must be borne in mind however that statistics based on small figures are liable to violent fluctuations. While I sincerely trust that it will never be necessary to use this argument to explain bad figures perhaps it is as well to put in this reminder in a year when our figures are remarkably good.

Penryn has made an outstanding effort in the provision of new houses since the war but the demand is still unsatisfied. In addition there are many substandard houses in the Borough which, it seems, cannot possibly be dispensed with in the next 5 or even 10 years. The problem at present seems unsolvable but when the Country is able to turn attention once more to internal affairs it must be tackled and solved if we are to make any headway in the social war against Tuberculosis.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V E. Whitman (sgd)

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, acres	721
Population	3,978
No. of Inhabited houses	1,197
Rateable Value	£19,341.10s.
Product of Penny Rate	£73. 1s. 2d.
Number of Houses built and under construction since 1945	105
Number of families on waiting list of houses	372

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Males 39 Females 42 Total 81

Crude birth rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn 20.4
Crude birth rate, per 1,000 population, England & Wales 16.7

Still Births

Nil

Deaths

Males 22 Females 23 Total 45

Crude death rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn 11.3
Crude death rate, per 1,000 population, England & Wales 11.7

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of age

One

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	1948	1949
Whooping Cough	-	1
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	1	-
Influenza	-	1
Cancer	16	5
Diabetes	1	-
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	9	9
Heart Diseases	13	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	1	2
Bronchitis	1	5
Pneumonia	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Digestive Diseases	-	1
Nephritis	1	4
Diseases of Early Infancy	1	-
Suicide	-	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
Other Violent Causes	-	1
All other causes	1	5
	49	46

(1)

(1)

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	M.	F.	Total
0 +	-	1	1
1 - 4	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	1
25 - 44	4	2	6
45 - 64	3	1	4
65 - 75	9	9	18
75+	5	11	16
	22	24	46

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

1. Clinics

The Infant Welfare Clinics in Penryn are the most flourishing in the area with which I have to deal. 52 sessions were held at which there were 1,792 attendances, giving an average of over 34 attendances per session.

A Minor Ailments Clinic is held 3 mornings each week chiefly for school children.

All other necessary clinics are available at Falmouth.

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service

These services are freely available to such as require them. Penryn is served chiefly from Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service

Penryn organised the pioneer efforts in this Service in the County where it still remains the most vigorous branch. At the end of the year there were 9 Home Helps who had given assistance in the homes of 27 maternity cases and 109 others. This Service enables people to remain in their homes who otherwise would be forced by sickness or decrepitude to go into hospital or other institution. It thus contributes largely to the sum of human happiness and, because it relieves the pressure on hospital and institutional beds, saves the nation a great deal of money. It is a source of alarm that because the cost falls on the County rates rather than national ~~insurances~~ resources it may be necessary to limit the growth of this Service for lack of funds.

4. After Care

7 tubercular persons were granted free extra nourishment on the recommendation of the County Tuberculosis Officer.

5. Laboratory Facilities.

It was arranged as from 1st April, 1949, that bacteriological work relevant to the diagnosis, control and prevention of infectious diseases would be done free of charge to local authorities at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary. Towards the end of the year the Public Health Laboratory Service established a laboratory in Truro for this work.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
1 - 3	-	-	5	1	1	-	2	1
3 - 5	-	-	3	5	-	-	4	8
5 - 10	-	1	3	1	-	-	14	9
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	1	12	9	1	-	21	18
TOTALS	1		21		1		39	

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia		Erispelas	
	M	F	M	F
0 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	-	-
15 - 45	-	-	1	1
45 - 65	-	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-
	1	-	1	1
TOTALS	1		2	

Immunisation against Diphtheria

During the year 78 children under 5 and 10 over that age were immunised against Diphtheria, 43 booster doses were also given.

On 31st December the estimated number of children between the ages of 15 months and 5 years in Penryn was 234, of these 218, or 93.6% had been immunised. This is outstandingly good.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15+	Total
Number vaccinated	2	6	-	1	9
Number revaccinated	-	-	-	7	7

Tuberculosis

Age Group	New Cases Pulmonary M	New Cases Pulmonary F	New Cases Non-Pulmonary	New Cases Non-Pulmonary F	Deaths Pulmonary M	Deaths Pulmonary F	Deaths Non-Pulmonary M	Deaths Non-Pulmonary F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	15		1		-		-	

Unfortunately the Borough has a high incidence of Tubercular Disease. On 31st December there were 33 respiratory and 13 non- respiratory cases on the Register. This indicates that there are 11.5 cases per thousand of population which is nearly twice the incidence for the whole County. I hope when I next report to be able to inform you of steps which will have been taken toward reducing the number of cases. No measures can be fully effective so long as overcrowding in substandard houses continues but a great deal can and must be done in the way of mitigation.

BOROUGH OF PENRYN

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

Mr Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

This Annual Report is based on the headings set out in the Ministry of Health Circular 2/50.

Water Supply

An Adequate supply of water has been available in the town from the Falmouth Corporation Waterworks Mains and I understand that each of the twelve samples taken during the year proved satisfactory in quality both bacteriologically and chemically.

I would again call attention to the areas within the Borough which are not served by the main supply viz:- Tremoughdale, Bella Vista, Golden Acre and Round Ring. In the first instance mentioned, the supply of water from shallow wells has been consistent throughout the year but the positioning and construction of these wells renders them liable to surface contamination. In the three other areas mentioned the wells are deeper but during the summer months the quantity of water available was not sufficient and the supplies had to be carried from other sources.

During the year the four existing Council Houses at Bissom were connected to the Truro R.D.C. Main, these houses have now an adequate and wholesome supply of water.

Sewerage

During the year the outfall pipe in the College River was relaid and lengthened which resulted in the absence of complaints from this area.

Two new manholes have been constructed on the old lengths of sewer during the year.

The existing sewers have been extended at College to receive the drainage from the Saracen Housing Estate and a 6" sewer was laid by Private Enterprise to serve the first section of the new development at Polwithen Road. The remainder of the properties in this road will be drained into the new sewer in Green Lane which is to be laid under the Private Street Works Act.

The drainage of the four existing houses at Bissom was disconnected from the existing cesspools and connected to the small sewerage works which receives the sewage from the new housing estate. Water closets have been provided in lieu of the pail closets at these four houses.

Meat and Other Foods

Inspection of retail premises have been carried out during the year and no statuatory action has been found necessary. The following food stuffs which were surrendered by the Retailers were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Meat (Carcass)	129 lbs
Meat (Canned)	6 lbs
Fish	140 lbs
Fish (Canned)	16 lbs
Milk (Canned)	15 lbs
Various (Canned) Foods	22 lbs

Milk and Dairies Order

The twelve registered premises were each inspected during the year and informal action was taken against two producers who considerably improved in their methods and the cleanliness of their premises.
One of these premises is situated in an area which does not have the advantage of a water main and consequently the standard of cleanliness is not high.

The operation, from the first of October, of the new enactments and regulations has placed the responsibility of the inspection of the cow stalls and producing premises in the hands of another authority and the Borough Council is now concerned with the distribution and distributors of milk.

Ice Cream

The Ice Cream sold in the area during the year was a proprietary make manufactured outside this district.

Slaughterhouses

The slaughterhouses in the Borough are not being used as such. The meat offered for retail sale is killed at Lower Penvose Slaughterhouse which is in the area of the Kerrier Rural District Council.

Housing

The following summary shows the extent of works completed during the year under review.

New houses erected by the Council	17
New houses erected by Private Enterprise	5
War Damaged houses repaired	14
Other houses repaired as the result of informal action	19
Repairs to Council houses at 209 houses	
No of inspections made regarding the disrepair or defective conditions of houses (excluding Council Houses)	43
No of Inspections, as above, of Council houses.	283
Total No of houses in the Borough	1197
No of Council Houses.	288

The number of overcrowded houses in the Borough is still high and it would appear that this distressing condition will continue whilst the erection of new houses continues at the present pace. A survey of the Council property has shown a substantial number of overcrowded houses and at the other extreme there are a number of three bedroomed houses occupied by two persons.

Whilst appreciating the mixed feelings of the elderly couples who would be asked to move from the house which has long since become their home into a smaller house or flat at a potentialy higher rent , it does appear to me that a more economical use of the space provided in the Council owned property could be brought about and made easier if so required by a differention in the rents charged in these particular cases.

In these days of urgent need and high building cost it would appear uneconmical to provide more space in a house than is required for the immediate and near future use of the family to be housed. The Council could well afford to give consideration to the erection in pairs or blocks of houses which ultimately could be three bedroomed houses but would start as being single bedroomed flats which with small internal alterations could be returned to the final use. In both pairs and blocks of houses the simple arrangement in internal alteration could be made to provide a normal three bedroomed house with one or more additional bedrooms, whilst reducing the number of rooms in the adjoining house in order to more accurately provide for the families to be housed.

The Council will appreciate that the suggestion contained above reverses the present method of allocation of houses. If my suggestion is taken up it would be necessary to decide upon the families to be housed before proceeding with the erection of the houses.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The twice weekly collection of refuse from all premises and the more frequently in the main street has been continued through the year and the disposal of the refuse on the Dump has occasioned the same difficulties viz:- the provision of sufficient covering material and the retention of the tip face against the action of the tide. Experiments with a low wire fence have shown that larger amounts of material can be retained and with a higher fence or wall the whole of the refuse can be held avoiding the complaints received from time to time regarding refuse floating inthe harbour. Contractors and builders are continually being encouraged to deposit their clearings on the Dump which has proved to be a useful covering material

Rodent Control

This work during the year has been disappointing by reason of the ill health of the Council's Rodent Operator which made it necessary for him to resign and the great difficulty in obtaining an Operator with the knowledge of present day methods.

For seven months the Council were without a Rodent Operator and during that time only the most urgent cases of infestation could be dealt with. During the remaining period the new Rodent Operator had to be trained by attending courses of instruction and, through the good offices of the Divisional Rodent Officer, with the Divisional Rodent Squad.

The number of inspections and re-inspections were 135 and the premises treated were as under:-

Dwellings and gardens	13
Refuse Dump	1
Business Premises	7
Corporation Property	4

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen
Your obedient servant

K.R. BLACKMORE. M.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector